

control of foot and mouth disease and other diseases of National Importance including brucellosis under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases".

The Department has requested the State Governments which have international land border to ensure that livestock and livestock products are not brought into the country by land routes and to remain vigilant about movement of animals from across the border.

The States have been advised to undertake vaccination of unaffected animals against foot and mouth disease and to control movement of animals.

Crop insurance for groundnut growers of A.P.

4581. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has requested for sanction of crop insurance for groundnut growing districts of Anantapur, Chuddapa and Mahaboobnagar;

(b) whether the crop insurance amounting to Rs.963.42 lakhs could not be settled by the Government of India for reasons that the claimed areas are more than sown areas;

(c) whether the State Chief Minister had also urged the Agriculture Minister on 23rd September, 2000 in this regard; and

(d) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Insurance claims amounting to Rs.963.42 lakh of Kharif 1999 season pertained to 42 mandals of Anantapur, Chuddapah and Mahaboobnagar districts of Andhra Pradesh, where area insured was more than the area sown.

After verification of the area and the discussions held with the State Government in the meetings convened on 24th May and

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2nd November 2000, claims amounting to Rs.560.36 lakh were approved by the Government of India.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Claims have already been approved by the Government of India.

Subsidizing Agricultural Products

4582. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that developed countries, particularly the US and European nations, heavily subsidize agriculture;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to subsidize agricultural products in the country to the maximum, so that India is able to compete in the international market;

(c) whether, 147 items out of 715 items, deleted from the restricted list, are agricultural items; and

(d) if so, what care Government would take at the time of import of agricultural items, so that no sanitary and phytosanitary problems are created, in the interest of our farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the Indian context, we may not be able to subsidize agricultural products to the maximum.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) With a view to protecting the interest of our farmers from the sanitary and phytosanitary problems on account of the import of agricultural items from other countries, Agriculture Ministry has been stringently enforcing the provisions of various regulations in this regard.